

### REMARKS

By the foregoing amendment, applicants have submitted a red-ink marked-up drawing for the examiner's review and approval, but respectfully request that the submission of formal drawings be held in abeyance until the application is allowed.

Applicants note that the examiner has not considered the foreign language documents previously filed in an Information Disclosure Statement. As a supplement to the previous Information Disclosure Statement, applicants hereby provide at least partial English language translations or equivalents and respectfully request that such document be considered by the examiner initialing and returning a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449.

The previous rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, are deemed moot in view of the foregoing amendments. It is believed that the claims, as now amended, adequately comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112 in particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter that applicants regard as the invention. Withdrawal of the rejection is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Reconsideration of the previous rejection of all claims under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Thiers et al (U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0020127), having a publication date of February 21, 2002.

However, applicants respectfully submit that Thiers et al is not "prior art" within the sense of 35 U.S.C. 102(e). Thiers has a publication date of February 21, 2002, based on an application serial number 09/878,206, filed June 12, 2001. However, the present application was filed before June 12, 2001, namely, March 30, 2001. Even without benefit of the present application's foreign priority date, the Thiers et al document was filed subsequent to applicants' U.S. filing date of the instant application and is not a reference under 35 U.S.C. 102(e), even though published.

Even if Thiers et al was a reference, Thiers et al is directed to laminate floors made of medium density fiberboard (MDF) or high density fiberboard (HDF), which is much more flexible than the boards of the instant invention, which are parquet boards; See, the original disclosure, page 1 of the specification, 4<sup>th</sup> full paragraph and, thus, is directed to non-analogous art.

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of all rejections and passage of the application to issue are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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## ATTACHMENT I

2. (Amended) The parquet board of claim [1] 13, wherein [the] an entry edge of the [groove-boundary-forming] top groove cheek [(28)] is provided with a tapered surface [(30)].

3. (Amended) The parquet board of claim [1] 13, wherein the [edge of] locking lip [(24)] has an edge closest to [the] a free end of the tongue [(14)] and said edge is provided with a tapered [(32)] or rounded surface.

4. (Amended) The parquet board of claim [1] 13, wherein [at least one of the front ends (18,20)] the top cheek of the parquet board[s] projects [forward above] beyond the groove [and tongue (14, 16) towards the abutting board edge] so that when assembled with an adjacent parquet board, the boards come into contact with each other [in a position (22) in the top] so as to form a useful top surface.

5. (Amended) The parquet board of claim [1] 13, wherein [in] the tongue is sized such that, when in an [the] assembled position with an adjacent board the tongue does not have a length which completely fills the groove, such that[,] there is a gap between tongue [(14)] and [the back] an end of the groove [(16)].

6. (Amended) The parquet board of claim [1] 13, wherein when the board is in [the] an assembled position with an adjacent parquet board, there is at least a small gap between [the] an edge of the locking lip [(24) disposed in the direction of the end groove (16)] and the corresponding edge of the locking recess.

10. (Amended) The parquet board of claim [8] 13, wherein when the board is in [the] an assembled position with at least one adjacent parquet board, there is at least a small gap between the tapered surfaces [(38,42)] on the groove and on the tongue.

11. (Amended) The parquet board of claim [1] 13, wherein the parquet board is shaped as a slim, elongated rectangle, and in that the [edge] groove and tongue profile is provided on the opposite longitudinal sides [with there being a corresponding wall profile of lower height on the front ends].

12. (Amended) The parquet board of claim [1] 13, wherein there is a tapered surface [(46)] at [the] an outer end of the tongue, on [its] a bottom side of the tongue.

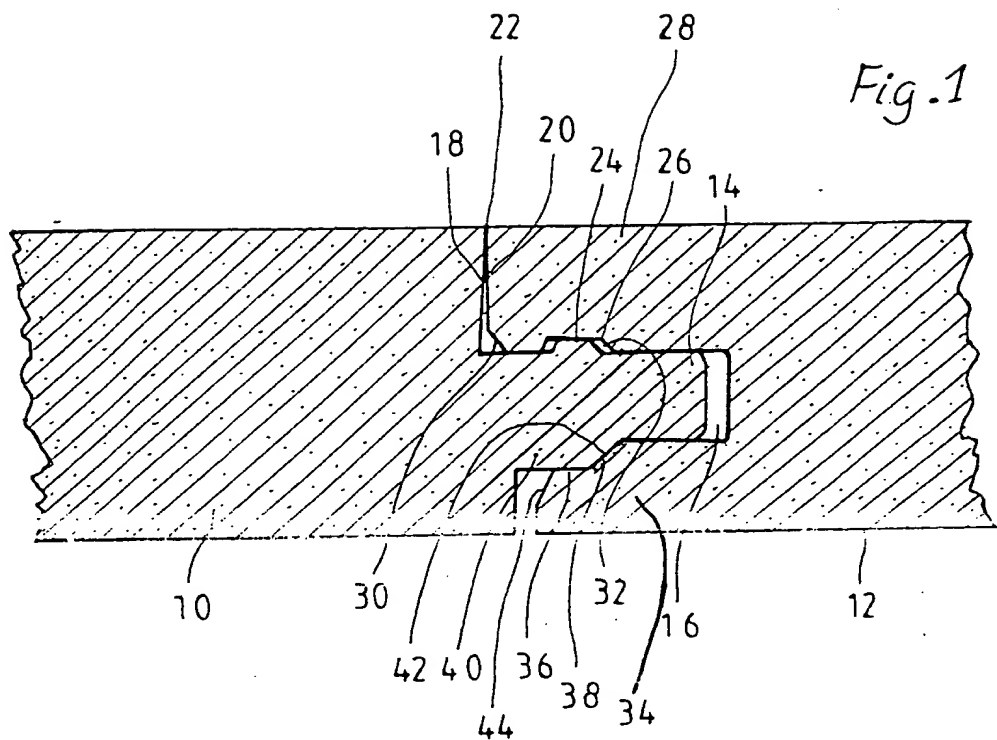


Fig. 1

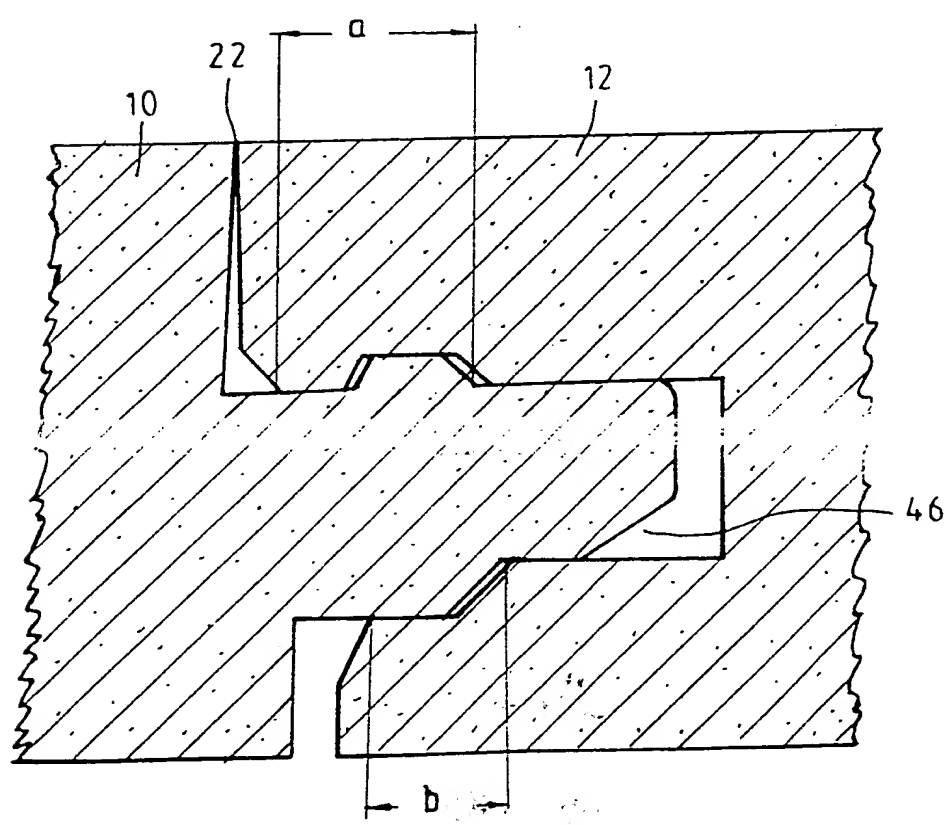


Fig. 2